

#### RUSSIA AND THE WEST IN IRAN

objections from the Communist deputy Abbas Iskandari. Instead a bill, introduced by Deputy Reza-zadeh Shafaq and sponsored by Qavara himself, was adopted containing the following provisions:

'ij Iran will explore her own oil resources during the next five years with her own capital.

is) The Premier's negotiations for an oil agreement with the Soviet Union were null and void.

('3') Iran will not be permitted to grant any concessions to foreign powers or to have foreign partners or assistance in oil exploration.

(4) If oil is found in Iran within the next five years, the government might negotiate with Russia with a view to selling oil.

(5) Iran must negotiate with the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company to obtain a higher share of its profits.

Tension increased between the Soviet Union and Iran. On No-

vember 20 the Soviet Embassy in a note to Qavam accused the

Iranian government of hostile activity against Russia and hinted at

the possibility of a rupture of diplomatic relations. This was fol-

lowed by a series of notes throughout the first half of 1948, in which

Russia protested against increased American influence in Iran and

the "militarizing" of Iran by the United States.<sup>22</sup> She also demanded

suppression of the hostile press. The United States was accused of

seeking to make Iran a "strategic base," presumably to be used

against Russia. These notes were accompanied by a campaign of in-

timidation in the Soviet press. On April 4

*Pravda* and *Izvestia* went

so far as to liken the presence of American advisers and American

influence in Iran to Nazi activities in that country in 1941 on the eve

of the Soviet-British occupation. Such statements had sinister con-

notations for the Iranians. They meant that Moscow was preparing ground for possible invocation of the 1921 treaty, which permitted Russia under certain circumstances to send her army into Iran. The absence of Ambassador Sadchikov from the diplomatic ceremony on the occasion of the Iranian New Year (*No-ruz*) was ominously significant. Early in April these verbal threats were backed up by concrete Soviet measures in the Caspian. Russian shipping to Iran was curtailed, and their technicians began to dismantle harbor installations at Pahlavi in the area held under special concession. At the same time

22 These notes were delivered on January 31, March 28, and April 8, 1948.